THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The post-budgetary developments of levy of cess and hike in prices of HSD oil, retrospective revision of tariff by some of the State Electricity Boards, higher rates of incentive bonus to workshop staff, revision of family planning allowance, damage caused by Orissa cyclone etc. had put an additional burden of around Rs. 900 cr. on the Ordinary Working Expenses of the Railways during 1999-2000. Apart from this, there was also a higher requirement of Rs. 800 cr. for pensionary charges arising from implementation of the recommendations of the V Central Pay Commission.

While Railways have been able to absorb the impact of post-budgetary developments, except the higher requirements for pensionary charges, within the existing provision for Ordinary Working Expenses by implementation of an Action Plan aimed at reducing expenditure through economy and austerity measures in areas of staff, fuel, stores, contractual payments, contingencies and other miscellaneous expenditure, Plan Expenditure has also been scaled down by Rs. 735 cr. With this and draw-down from Railway Fund balances of Rs. 1000 cr., Railways expect that their receipts in 1999-2000 will cover their expenditure, both plan and non-plan. Railways will continue to implement economy and austerity measures in the current year too.

Railway Estt. Rules

3795. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Estt. Rules provide fixing up the number of Junior Scale Officers in Group 'A' cadre;

(b) if so, what are the rules;

(c) whether these rules are being followed;

(d) if so, what is the number of such officers fixed in different services; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons and what action is being taken to implement these rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The provisions of Para 111 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code Volume 1 provide that "the cadres of the services and

departments included in Railway Services Groups A&B (other than the Medical Department and specialists) posts on Indian Railways shall be fixed in accordance with the principles stated below:

(1) Separate cadres shall be maintained for each Indian Railway.

(2) (a) The number of permanent working posts, that is, posts required for ordinary duty on a Railway, shall first be determined for each service or department and divided into the following grades:—

(i) Sr. Administrative Grade Level I
(ii) Sr. Administrative Grade Level II 4th } (Merged as single grade after Central Pay Commission)

(iii) Administrative Grade Scale Rs. 2000-2250 (Presently selection grade)

(iv) Jr. Administrative Grade.

(v) Senior Scale

(vi) Junior Scale/Group 'B'

(b) The General working posts, that is posts required for general purpose of the Railway which may be filled by gazetted railway officers of any service may be determined and divided in the same manner.

(c) The number of posts to be allotted to the Junior Scale shall be calculated with reference to the total number of Administrative Grade and Senior Scale posts, and shall be so fixed as to allow a continuous flow of promotion from lower to higher grade after a given period of service. For this purpose all the administrative posts, including the general administrative posts shall be taken into account.

(d) The rest of the posts included in 2(a) (vi) above shall be allotted to Group 'B'."

It may be seen from the foregoing that the Jr. Scale/Group 'B' posts are clubbed together under Rule 111 2(a) (vii) and the codal provisions are followed.

(e) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Persons Displaced by the Railways

†3796. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending cases related to rehabilitation of the persons displaced due to laying of new rail lines and due to construction works and

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.